

St Thomas Church, Charlton Benefice.
Safeguarding of Children & Vulnerable Adults Report 2019-2020

We take the risk to young children and vulnerable adults seriously at St Thomas' church as part of the safeguarding culture within Charlton Benefice.

In accordance with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016, St Thomas' PCC, also has regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, undertaking the following action:

Appoint

- Two new Parish Safeguarding Officers, Miriam Kakembo and Ali Edney in July 2019 – replacing Judith Clark. Both are lay PSOs and AE administers DBS applications.
- Check all St Thomas' PCC members have current DBS.
- Support PSOs at St Thomas' with regular contact with Rector and St Luke's PSO Rick Newman, in addition to regular contact with Southwark Diocese's Safeguarding Officers, and ensure appropriate training was taken by PSOs.

Recruit

- All Church Officer appointments in-line with 'Safer Recruitment Practice'.
- Review all volunteers requiring DBS checks and completing these (initiated by Revd. Liz Newman).
- Check all paperwork is issued in accordance with Benefice Safeguarding best practice.

Display

- Formal statements adopting 'Promoting A Safer Church's safeguarding policy statement'.
- PSO contact details, portrait photographs and information about where to get help for safeguarding related queries - posted downstairs.
- Hard copies of the Safeguarding short guide on hall noticeboards both up and downstairs.
- St Thomas' own Safeguarding Policies up and downstairs.

Adopt

- Regular Safeguarding briefings and role play at PCC meetings.
- Promote an environment where safeguarding questions and concerns are welcomed, taken seriously, shared promptly and followed up systematically.
- PSOs attend regular contact meetings with one another, Rector, as well as St Luke's PSO and ensure that situations where: vulnerable adults; children; people with known problems could be involved, are communicated and managed.
- GDPR best practice including storage of password protected information.
- Risk Assessments and H&S policies.

Communicate & Report

- Annual safeguarding reports, although 2019-2020 report was not circulated due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Update spread sheets, information.
- Check hiring procedures with CWs including Hirer Agreement (incl. safeguarding), Key Holder Agreement, Risk Assessment, PLI, Safeguarding Policies and SOs.

Ali Edney & Miriam Kakembo Parish Safeguarding Officers 25th April 2021

St Thomas Church

Safeguarding of Children & Vulnerable Adults Report 2020-2021

In accordance with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016, St Thomas' PCC, also has regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, undertaking the following action:

Appoint

- Check all St Thomas' PCC members have current DBS, Officers and volunteers have up-to-date, safeguarding, training qualifications.

Display

- Formal Statements Adopting 'Promoting A Safer Church's safeguarding policy statement' are in St Thomas' building and on website.
- PSO contact details and information about where to get help for safeguarding related queries, are posted online @ Charton.Church, as are Southwark Diocese's Safeguarding contacts, in addition to St Thomas' building.
- A hard copy of the Safeguarding short guide is on hall noticeboards both upstairs and downstairs.
- St Thomas' own safeguarding policies are posted upstairs and downstairs.

Adopt

- Promote an environment where safeguarding questions and concerns are welcomed, taken seriously, shared promptly and investigated systematically.
- PSOs attend regular contact meetings with one another and Rector, as well as St Luke's PSO, ensure that situations where vulnerable adults / children / people with known problems could be involved, are communicated and managed.
- GDPR best practice & storage of pass word protected information on St Thomas' computer.
- Review Risk Assessments / H&S

Communicate & Report

- Annual reports for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are submitted together due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Review hiring procedures with CWs including Hirer Agreement (incl. safeguarding), Key Holder Agreement, Risk Assessment, check clubs have PLI, Safeguarding Policies and SOs.
- St Thomas' PSOs telephone one another / meet online every three months to go through updates and reviews.

Ali Edney & Miriam Kakembo Parish Safeguarding Officers 25th April 2021